



MARK GOTTLIEB

Speaker Pro Tempore
Wisconsin State Assembly

**Testimony of Rep. Mark Gottlieb
Assembly Bill 26
Assembly Committee on Education
March 27, 2007**

Chairman Davis and Members:

Thank you for holding this public hearing on Assembly Bill 26 (AB 26), relating to liability for disobeying adult school crossing guards and providing a penalty.

I introduced AB 26 at the request of my constituent Diane Jung of Port Washington, an adult school crossing guard who has witnessed drivers violating the requirement that they stop when she raises her stop sign to escort children in a crosswalk. She was troubled to learn that the forfeiture for violating this statute is much lower than the forfeiture for ignoring a school bus with flashing lights, which in our minds is a similar offense and should be penalized as such.

Current law provides that a driver who disobeys an adult crossing guard is liable for a forfeiture of between \$20 and \$40 for the first offense and between \$50 and \$100 for the second and subsequent offenses. This is considerably less than the penalty for ignoring a school bus with flashing lights, which is a forfeiture of between \$30 and \$300.

The failure of a vehicle to stop when instructed by an adult crossing guard puts the crossing guard and children in considerable risk of great bodily harm. Because these are the same serious consequences that can arise from ignoring a school bus with flashing lights, this bill increases the penalty for the former to equal the latter. For this reason, I believe the increased penalty is well warranted and justified and I respectfully ask that the members of this committee support and take executive action on Assembly Bill 26.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 60TH DISTRICT